



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FERTILIZER AND GREASE MADE FROM RABBIT WASTES

The left hind foot of a rabbit may or may not bring its possessor good luck. A sufficient number of rabbits' feet, however, together with their heads and the other refuse discarded when they are prepared for market, have a real commercial value. Raising rabbits for both meat and fur is a rapidly growing industry in this country, and the question of the most profitable disposition of the wastes is one of sufficient importance to challenge the attention of scientists.

As in the case of packing-house wastes, part of the discarded material is recoverable as grease, part as dried blood, and the greater part as tankage or ammoniate fertilizer. Accordingly the Bureau of Soils has cooperated with the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture in an analysis of rabbit offal with a view to estimating its probable value if converted into these products.

Taking as a basis of comparison the fact that about 15,000 rabbits a week are slaughtered for meat in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, Calif., it has been found that products having an estimated commercial value of \$30 daily should be obtainable from the offal of these rabbits. Incineration of these wastes would yield less than 150 pounds of ashes daily, containing bone phosphate of lime and possibly a little potash, worth less than \$1 as fertilizer. While at the present time various practical problems present themselves to those who might consider establishing plants for reducing rabbit wastes, it may be possible for those persons to negotiate with firms already engaged in rendering meat scraps.

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